

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

JOSHUA 9-12

The new pastor visited the children's Sunday School to evaluate its effectiveness. He asked the class, "Who tore down the walls of Jericho?" Little Johnny raised his hand, "*Pastor, I promise you. I didn't do it.*"

The pastor was surprised by his answer. He asked again, "Come on now, who tore down the walls of Jericho?" The teacher jumped in, "*Pastor, little Johnny is a good boy. If he says he didn't do it I believe him.*"

The upset pastor went to the Sunday School director and explained what happened. She said, "*Pastor, we've never had a problem with Johnny. If he says he didn't do it, I would say he probably didn't do it.*"

Finally, the pastor explained the situation to the elders. The head elder commented, "*Pastor, Johnny's family has been a part of our church for years, why don't we take some money out of the general fund and just pay to repair the wall...*" Well, last week we discovered who really did tear down the walls of Jericho... **Jesus fought the battle of Jericho!** Our Lord made a pre-incarnate appearance. Jesus was the commander of the Lord's army who planned the battle.

In fact, there were two key battles in the Hebrew's conquest of Canaan... The first was at Jericho. It was Israel's initial victory. It sent a message to the Canaanites, and built momentum among God's people.

The second key battle was at Beth Horon - that's what we'll study today. For at Beth Horon, God broke the southern resistance, destroying five kings that had allied themselves against Joshua and the Hebrews.

And both victories were aided by supernatural intervention. The miraculous way these battles were won convinced the Canaanites they were doomed. It was obvious they were fighting no ordinary army. They were fighting against the one, true God - Yahweh of Israel... And if you think the miracle at Jericho was a big deal, hold on to your hat! For in the Valley of Beth Horon *God flexes His muscle in an extraordinary way.*

Chapter 9 begins, "**And it came to pass when all the kings who were on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon - the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite - heard about it, that they gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord.**" These were hostile city-states that usually warred against each

other. Now Israel poses such a threat the cities rally together.

“But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai...” The next town in Israel’s path, west of Ai, was Gibeon. The Gibeonites knew they were next in the line of fire... Apparently, it was too late for them to join forces with their neighbors, so they decided *if you can’t beat them; then join them.*

“They worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended, old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy.” Rather than living right around the corner, they pretended to have been on the road for months.

“And they went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, “We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us.” The Gibeonites knew God had instructed the Hebrews to take no prisoners. They were under orders to seek and destroy. A good neighbor strategy wouldn’t work. So they pretended to be a delegation from afar.

“The men of Israel said to the Hivites (not knowing they were Hivites or Gibeonites), “Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?” But they said to Joshua, “We are your servants.” And Joshua said to them, “Who are you, and where do you come from?” *Joshua is suspicious. He smells a rat.*

“So they said to him: “From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God; for we have heard of His fame, and all that He did in Egypt, and all that He did to the two kings... who were beyond the Jordan...” Note, they don’t mention the latest victories at Jericho and Ai. It’s part of the ruse. They want the Hebrews to think they’d been on the road and were ignorant of recent news.

The Gibeonites continue, “Therefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, ‘Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say to them, “We are your servants; now therefore, make a covenant with us. This bread of ours we took hot for our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is dry and moldy. And these wineskins which we filled were new, and see, they are torn; and these our garments and our sandals have become old because of the very long journey.” Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD.” ***And this was their crucial mistake!***

How often can we trace our problems back to **not seeking counsel from the Lord?** *We were too confident... too sure of our own understanding... it seemed right to us...* Neglect to seek God’s wisdom, and you’ll get burned. Isaiah 28:16 is good advice, “Whoever believes will not act hastily.” Never make a decision without first taking time

to consult the Lord!

Vs 15, “So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them. And it happened at the end of three days, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they were their neighbors who dwelt near them. Then the children of Israel journeyed and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim. But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel.”

To Israel's credit a vow is a vow, *and they were true to their word*. Even if they were deceived in making the vow, they were still committed to honor their word.

Perhaps you work for a Gibeonite? Your boss promised you one thing when you were hired, but you've yet to see it... *Maybe you bought a car from a Gibeonite?* Gibeonite Motors sold you a lemon. It was false advertising... *Or worse, you married a Gibeonite?* He or she pretended to be something they were not....

How do you respond? In certain situations there may be some recourse to take, but the one certainty is that God expects you to keep your word! *No matter the lack of integrity it reveals in them, or the inconvenience it creates for you... you be a person of your word!* A promise made should be a promise kept. Yet aren't these men guilty of fraud and deserve to be punished?

Verse 18, “And all the congregation complained against the rulers. Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, “We have sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them.

This we will do to them: We will let them live, lest wrath be upon us because of the oath which we swore to them.” And the rulers said to them, “Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for all the congregation, as the rulers had promised them.”

Due to their deception the Gibeonites are sentenced to menial work - *chopping wood for the sacrifices, and carrying water for the priestly washings*. They'll be lumberjacks and water boys for the Tabernacle.

In the rest of the chapter when Joshua delivers this verdict to the Gibeonites, they accept their punishment and plight, and gratefully embrace their new duties.

Interestingly, later Joshua will appoint Gibeon, *of all townships* - as a Levitical city. Priests and Levites will make their home with the woodcutters and water boys.

Perhaps the psalmist was thinking of the Gibeonites when he wrote in Psalm 84:10, “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in

the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.” The Gibeonites end up just happy to be part of the service of the one, true God.

It’s also interesting that in years to come God honors this covenant with Gibeon. 2 Samuel 21:1, “Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, “It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites.” God judged King Saul for mistreating the Gibeonites.

Now, here Joshua’s victories have not gone unnoticed by the surrounding Canaanites. When he lynched the king of Ai it got their attention... Thus, Adoni-Zedek, king of Jerusalem, along with four other southern kings form a alliance to defend themselves.

This southern coalition meets Joshua at the battle of Beth Horon, and if you think Jericho was an example of supernatural intervention - *you ain’t seen nothing yet!*

So 10:3, “Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Priam king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying, “Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel.” Rather than sit back and let Joshua conquer them one at a time, Adoni-Zedek suggests they join forces and take the battle to Joshua.

Verse 5 “Therefore the five kings of the Amorites... of Jerusalem... Hebron... Jarmuth... Lachish... and Eglon, gathered together and went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it.” Taking the town of Gibeon would give the southern kings a strategic advantage over Israel.

So when Gibeon sees this threat, they call to Joshua to honor the protection treaty they’d just signed. And Joshua responds, verse 7, “So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. And the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you.”

Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal.” And this is where a little geography lesson is helpful... Gilgal is in the Jordan River plain. Gibeon is in the mountains of Samaria. From Gilgal to Ai is 15 miles, but it’s all uphill. Gilgal is 900 feet below sea level. Ai is 2600 feet above sea level. Keep going westward toward Gibeon, and you slope back down the west side of the mountain. The valley below Gibeon is called the Valley of Beth Horon.

There is only one way out of this valley, and it’s south. The Valley of Beth Horon runs into the Valley of Aijalon. Joshua hears this southern coalition is camped in the Valley

of Beth Horon, just west of Gibeon. So he pushes his troops through the night. The Israeli army marches hard - for ten hours - they cover 15 miles and climb 3300 feet. But at sunrise Joshua is in position to launch a surprise attack against Adoni-Zedek and the Amorites. At sun-up the fighting begins at Beth Horon.

Verse 10, “So the LORD routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah.” You can see these southern cities on the map. And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.” God intervenes in this battle with an air strike. He uses heavenly artillery. He carpet bombs the Amorites with “large hailstones.” The rout is on...

Then verse 12, “Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel (he prayed this where everyone could hear him): “Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.” So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies.”

Understand what’s happening... Ancient Israel didn’t have daylight savings time, and the sun is setting. Nobody wants to come back the next day to finish this battle, and Joshua is concerned the Amorites might get away under the cover of darkness. So to complete his conquest he needs a few more hours of daylight.

Thus, he prays a prayer so bold and daring – *I doubt any of us would even dream to pray it.* He prays in verse 12, “Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.” And then we’re told in verse 13, “So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.”

Let this miracle prove once and for all there’s no limit to the extent God will go to help His people defeat their enemies. God wants to help you overcome *fear... and sin... and worry... and temptation.* And if you ask Him, if you trust Him - He’ll do whatever it takes to give you the opportunity and tools you need to win your battle.

And don’t get thrown here by the language. The writer is using **the language of observation**. He’s reporting on a phenomenon as it appeared to him. We do this when we use terms like “*sunrise*” and “*sunset*.”

Meteorologists, with masters degrees in science appear on television each night and speak of the *sunrise* and *sunset*. And though that’s what they say, it’s not what they mean. The sun isn’t rising or setting, the earth’s rotation is what makes it appear that way.

Likewise here, something happens astronomically that causes the earth's rotation to slow down and actually stop for twenty-four hours. Which obviously, presupposes a global event of cataclysmic proportions.

Joshua even expects that future readers will have a difficult time believing such a miracle occurred; thus, he appeals to additional, extra-biblical sources. "Is this not written in the Book of Jasher?" This must've been an important volume in the day. "So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel." God heeded Joshua's prayer to help him win the battle.

"Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal." That this miracle happened should not be questioned - the only question is how it happened...

Not only did the Book of Jasher talk about this event, in most every culture there are historical references to a "long day" or a "long night." The Chinese speak of a "long day." The Aztecs of Mexico, and the indigenous people in Peru, even the Choctaw Indians of North America - all report a "long night." It's a fact of **history**.

But how it happened is more of a **mystery**... Certainly, God could've reached out with His hand, and slowed the earth's rotation. Genesis 1:1 says God created the heavens and the earth, and if He created the earth He can do anything with it He chooses.

There are though, respected scientists who've posed astronomical explanations for Joshua's long day. A colleague of Albert Einstein, Immanuel Velikovsky, wrote a great book, "Worlds in Collision." In his book Velikovsky suggests a comet passed through the earth's atmosphere in the middle of Joshua's battle.

This comet tilted the earth's axis accounting for the long day. Its tail pummeled the earth with a shower of asteroids, which were the "large hailstones" mentioned in verse 11. *It was a miracle of timing* - God manipulated the comet in answer to Joshua's prayer.

Another book by NASA scientist, Donald Wesley Patten, called "Catastrophism and the Old Testament" suggests the earth was victim of a close encounter with the planet Mars. Patten has constructed computer models that show around the time of Joshua, Mars passed by the earth at a distance of 28,000 miles.

The closest *the moon* ever gets to Earth is 221,463 miles. So 28,000 miles is just spitting distance... A close fly-by would cause the magnetic and gravitational fields of both planets to drag on each other. Earth's rotation would grind to a halt. And all kinds of global disasters would result - *like large hailstones*. Patten's theory may also

explain why the ancients worshipped planets that today we can barely see. The city of Rome was actually dedicated to the planet, Mars - god of war.

These explanations also shine an interesting light on the future, and the book of Revelation. If a planetary fly-by - or the sweep of a comet through the earth's atmosphere occurred in the past, it could also occur in the future - and explain some of the cataclysmic and cosmic events the Bible says will occur in the last days.

Revelation describes massive earthquakes - the sky tearing - meteorites falling from space - the surface of the earth scorched - mountains moving out of their place - islands disappearing - etc... There's a passage in Isaiah that compares God's judgment in the last days with the miraculous events that occurred in Beth Horon. Isaiah calls it, *the Valley of Gibeon*. Isaiah 28:21 reads, "For the LORD will rise up as at Mount Perazim, He will be angry as in the Valley of Gibeon - that He may do His work, His awesome work, and bring to pass His act, His unusual act. Now therefore, do not be mockers, lest your bonds be made strong; for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts, a destruction determined even upon the whole earth." As He did for Joshua, God will one day do in all the earth.

Which brings up another provocative observation. In many ways the book of Joshua is an amazing model of the book of Revelation. Remember, the theme of both books... "Jesus" or "Joshua" wages war against a collection of pagan kings to take possession of a land that belongs to God and His people. In Joshua the land is Canaan. In Revelation the land is the entire planet.

And look at the parallels... Two spies enter Jericho, whereas in Revelation 11 two witnesses are sent by God in the last days... Seven trumpets shake the walls of Jericho, and seven trumpet judgments rock the earth... Both campaigns last seven years - the Great Tribulation and conquest of Canaan... Both opposition forces are led by a king from Jerusalem. "Adoni-Zedek" means "Lord of righteousness." He typifies the future Antichrist, who'll be *the imposter of righteousness...*

In both Joshua and Revelation God uses cosmic and catastrophic judgments to humble the enemy... *Large hailstones* fall in Beth Horon, while 100 pound hailstones fall on the blasphemers in Revelation 16:21. *God stones the world for its blasphemy...* In Revelation 6:15 the kings of the earth hide themselves in the rocks and caves. In Joshua 10:16 five kings that come against Joshua hide themselves in a cave at Makkedah... *and the list of parallels goes on and on!*

You'll also notice what Joshua does to the Amorite kings in 10:24. He tells the Israelis to "put your feet on the necks of these kings." This is what Jesus will one day do to His enemies. *They'll become His footstool.*

Verse 17, "It was told Joshua, saying, "The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah." So Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and set men by it to guard them. And do not stay there yourselves, but pursue your enemies, and attack their rear guard. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the LORD your God has delivered them into your hand." He's saying, *strike while the iron is hot!*

Well, Joshua and his army finish the mop up with "*a very great slaughter.*" Joshua returns to Makkedah and deals with the kings he had trapped in the cave - the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon. And he makes an example out of these kings...

Verse 24, "So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they drew near and put their feet on their necks. Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight." And afterward Joshua struck them and killed them, and hanged them on five trees... Eventually, they're buried in the cave where they hid.

Verse 28 "On that day Joshua took Makkedah, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them - all the people who were in it. He let none remain. He also did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho."

Once the five king Amorite coalition falls, the rest of the southern city-states are easy pickings. Chapter 10 sums up their conquest... *Makkedah falls, then Libnah, Lachish, Eglon, Hebron, and Debir.* Joshua does to the strongholds of southern Canaan, what Sherman did to the South during the Civil War. He leaves a trail of blood. The South is cleared for Hebrew occupation.

Verse 40 sums up the conquest. "So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded. And Joshua conquered them from Kadesh Barnea as far as Gaza (eastward), and all the country of Goshen, even as far as Gibeon (southward). All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, **because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.**

Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal." Southern Canaan has fallen to General Joshua and the Israeli army, now they set their sites north. His strategy was **to divide and conquer.**

Chapter 11, “And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard these things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph, and to the kings who were from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth...”

The word “*Chinneroth*” means “*harp-shaped*.” It’s a reference to the Sea of Galilee. One of my favorite spots in Israel is the top of the Arbel. You’re high above the Sea of Galilee, and overlook the lake. And there you see it clearly, the Sea of Galilee resembles a harp.

But the northern coalition of Canaanites included more “the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west, to the Canaanites in the east and in the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the mountains, and the Hivite below Hermon in the land of Mizpah.” So they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots. And when all these kings had met together, they came and camped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.” The waters of Merom are a few miles east of a city named Hazor. The armies of this northern alliance were all under the command of Jabin, king of Hazor. *And this was a formidable army!*

The Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus, says Jabin had gathered 300,000 infantry, 20,000 cavalry, and 10,000 chariots. Each chariot crew consisted of three soldiers - a driver, a bowman, and a javelin junker. King Jabin’s army was an ancient equivalent of a modern war machine. *And Joshua was just a little intimidated...*

Verse 6, “But the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.”

And the next day the General launched a surprise attack “So Joshua and all the people of war with him came against them suddenly by the waters of Merom, and they attacked them. And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them and chased them to Greater Sidon, to the Brook Misrephoth, and to the Valley of Mizpah eastward; they attacked them until they left none of them remaining. So Joshua did to them as the LORD had told him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.” Remember Deuteronomy 17 warned the future king of Israel not to store up horses. In ancient times a cavalry was state-of-the-art warfare. Horses translated into military might.

But the king of Israel was to trust in God, not in his cavalry. I’m sure the hamstringing of the horses and the burning of the chariots helped reinforce this idea in the minds of the Hebrews, eliminating the temptation.

Verse 10 “Joshua turned back at that time and took Hazor, and struck its king with the sword; for Hazor was formerly the head of all those kingdoms. And they struck all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them. There was none left breathing. Then he burned Hazor with fire. So all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua took and struck with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded. But as for the cities that stood on their mounds, Israel burned none of them, except Hazor only, which Joshua burned.” And this is an interesting footnote. One year we had the privilege of visiting Hazor. Today, it’s not a popular tourist site. It’s just a huge archaeological excavation, but what’s significant in Hazor is you can see clearly in the bricks where the city was burned just as the Bible tells us.

Joshua burned Hazor. God used Israel to judge and end a perverse and pornographic and pagan culture.

“And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the children of Israel took as booty for themselves; but they struck every man with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they left none breathing. As the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did.”

And here was the real secret to Joshua’s success, “He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded...” He was obedient in the details. Joshua left nothing undone God had asked him to do. And this is the difference between victory and defeat in the spiritual battles we fight... *Is there anything that God has asked you to do that you’ve left undone?*

It is a credit to Joshua that modern Israeli generals have studied his battle tactics and used them to defeat the Syrians and Jordanians in modern conflicts.

Joshua was the originator of the preemptive strike. Rarely did he wait on his enemy to attack. He struck first at Ai, at Beth Horon, at Hazor. Even if it meant marching an army through the night Joshua relied on the element of surprise... He also took advantage of the lay of the land. In almost all his battles, Joshua was outnumbered, but he relied on speed, stealth, surprise.

Today, the IDF hails Joshua as the ultimate military commander, *but who really fought these battles?* It was the Commander of the Lord’s army! Our Lord Jesus led Israel to victory - just as he also leads us to victory!

Verse 16, “Thus Joshua took all this land...” And he gives us a geographical description of what Joshua conquered from south to north. Verse 17, “He captured all their kings, and struck them down and killed them. Joshua made war a long time with

all those kings. There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. All the others they took in battle. For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that He might utterly destroy them, and that they might receive no mercy, but that He might destroy them, as the LORD had commanded Moses.” Remember, this was a different era, before the age of grace and salvation. Canaanite culture was irredeemable. God had given these societies 400 years to repent and turn to Him, but their perversions had only grown more intense. The purging of this evil was a severe mercy to the surrounding nations and to Israel.

“And at that time Joshua came and cut off the Anakim from the mountains...” “*Anakim*” means “long-necked.” In Deuteronomy 2:12 the Anakim are called “giants.” These creatures were the offspring of demons. They were sired through Satanic sexual practices. Joshua targets the Anakim for extermination.

He cut them off “from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel; Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities. None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod.” Later a surviving Anakim from Gath will appear to torment Israel. *His name? Goliath.*

Vs 23, “So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war.”

Chapter 12 sums up Israel’s victories... two kings were defeated **by Moses east of the Jordan River**, The first was Sihon the Amorite, and according to verse 3 he ruled from the Sea of Chinneroth to the Salt Sea or Dead Sea... The second king was a giant named Og who ruled the north, Bashan, or today’s Golan Heights.

Then in verse 7, thirty-one kings were conquered **by Joshua west of the Jordan**. The kings of Jericho, Ai, the five kings of the South; then a host of minor rulers.

I love Alan Redpath’s comment on Chapter 12, “Sometimes in the course of human experience it is good to sit down and reflect on what has been conquered by the grace of God.” I’m sure for Joshua this list of conquests stirred up great gratitude and much praise. And I’ll betcha’ if you were to sit down this afternoon and make of list of the spiritual battles God has won in your life it too might just do you some good! *And how appropriate to do it on Thanksgiving Sunday!*

But now that the land has been conquered it has to be allocated to the tribes; and then settled by the people. That’s what happens, beginning in Chapter 13.